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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

Feeling the itch

West Nile cases confirmed in Niagara.
Page 2.

Treasurer needed

Madere parts ways with Wainfleet.
Page 3.

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Feelin' groovy



Laura Barton/Postmedia Network

Abbey Stansfield, education programmer with Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum, wears a crown of flowers for last Friday's 1960s Shindig. The event was part of a series, but specifically celebrates Port Colborne's 50th anniversary as a city.

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LOCAL NEWS

Human West Nile cases arrive in Niagara

Laura Barton
Postmedia Network

The year's first cases of humans infected with West Nile virus in Niagara have been confirmed by the public health department.

Niagara Public Health said in a news release there are two laboratory-confirmed cases.

Where the infected people resides has not been disclosed.

Dr. Andrea Feller, associate medical officer of health, said this is usually the time of year these cases arise.

She said it's because of the infection period between birds and mosquitoes getting the illness and it being transferred to humans.

"The mosquitoes will bite an infected bird, then the mosquitoes get it from the bird and then it takes the time after that until they start transmitting it to humans," she said.

Another reason it takes a while for confirmed cases to come about is because people don't tend to get sick right

away or just dismiss symptoms as the flu.

"The vast majority of people won't even know that they had an infection," Feller said. "So we typically don't find out about human cases until somebody's actually been sick."

She said many people in Niagara could have been infected with the illness and not even known it because they didn't exhibit symptoms.

In most cases, she said, symptoms dissipate after a while. People who already have illnesses they are dealing with might feel the effects for longer.

For one per cent of the

population, the infection can affect the brain, spinal cord and neurological system.

"That's why we take this disease very seriously."

Once someone has had the illness however, there is a lifelong immunity, she said.

Feller said there are no visible physical symptoms, like Lyme disease.

"There are some people when they get symptoms — what they call West Nile Fever — they can get a rash."

This time of the year also coincides with the time to be wary of tick bites as well.

"I think that's important that at this time of year you're looking at your body for anything unusual or different," Feller said.

She said prevention is the best method to avoid West Nile virus, so

WEST NILE VIRUS SYMPTOMS

- Flu-like symptoms
- Fatigue
- Common signs of severe infection include: Fever, severe headache, body aches, neck stiffness, confusion, weakness, tremors and sudden sensitivity to light

wearing long clothing, socks and shoes is highly recommended during the morning and evening hours when mosquitoes are most active. Insect repellant is another good idea.

Getting rid of standing water is also a good idea. She said even children's toys that might be sitting around the yard could collect water, so it's good to be mindful of those things, too.

Feller recommended anyone feeling symptoms related to West Nile virus visit their physician.

barton@postmedia.com



Niagara boasts most bars per person in Ontario



PETER KIM - FOTOMIA

According to a Statistics Canada study, the St. Catharines-Niagara area has the most bars per person in Ontario.

DON FRASER
Postmedia Network

ada's recent mapping of the country's bars and taverns in the nation's cities.

For St. Catharines-Niagara, it amounts to 1.89 per 10,000 residents — the highest rate of census metro areas reported in Ontario.

In total, that amounts to 77 unidentified drinking establishments in the regional census metro area, according to the Statistics Canada survey.

"This would have to be because of Brock University and Niagara College," said Hector De Devilis, who is part of a family proprietorship that includes Gord's Place in St. Catharines plus the Moose and Goose and Amici's Barbershop and Conservation Centre both here.

"We are a university and college town," he said, pointing to the approximately 18,600 full-time post-secondary students enrolled in Niagara. "There's a large influx of students coming here, and they have to unwind somehow and get away from school."

The study included only licensed establishments, earning the majority of their revenue from alcohol sales, and excluded full-service restaurants.

Canada's statistics agency lists 77 places in our CMA that excludes West Lincoln and Grimsby.

See BARS on page 5

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Wainfleet needs a treasurer

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Wainfleet is looking for a new treasurer and clerk after Robyn Madere parted ways with the township two weeks ago.

Mayor April Jeffs confirmed Monday that Madere, who worked as Wainfleet's treasurer for eight years, is no longer employed by the township.

Jeffs said she could not provide details about the confidential human resources matter.

Madere was recently made corporate services manager, adding the

municipal clerk's duties to her role as treasurer. She also spent nearly a year working as interim chief administrative officer, filling a vacancy left by Scott Luey, until Michael Smith was hired to replace him as CAO in March.

Smith said he cannot discuss confidential personnel matters, "but what I can say is as of Thursday, Aug. 25, the township of Wainfleet no longer employs Robyn."

"Council and staff, we certainly appreciate Robyn's years of service and wish her the best going forward," Smith added.

Madere couldn't be reached for comment.

With work soon to begin on setting the 2017 budget, finding a new treasurer is a priority for the township.

"We're going to be in a full move-ahead with a replacement," Smith said.

In the short term, Smith said deputy treasurer Mal-

lory Luey — wife of former CAO Scott Luey — will be filling the vacancy.

"And then we'll be putting up a posting for a permanent treasurer/clerk for the township in very short order," Smith said.

"These competitions take a little bit of time, but we're hoping within the next four

to six weeks to have someone as a replacement in place," he said.

"I'm pretty confident that we'll have someone in no longer than six weeks, for sure."

In addition to finding a new treasurer/clerk, the township might also be in the market for a planner.

Smith said the township has been without a full-time planner since April, when Michael Sullivan left the township.

Plans are being developed to fill that vacancy, as well.

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POSTMEDIA

Lifelong learning key to healthy aging



JUDY
REID

Many people find their passion later in life when they are free of work and other obligations and have the time to explore their innate abilities, talent and creativity.

Being creative has been linked to improved mental and physical health. In fact, some experts claim that creative self-expression is key to staying healthy, engaged and vibrant, as well as spiritually and emotionally balanced.

Lifelong learning is also an important part of healthy aging. It keeps your mind active and your brain engaged. Older adults report experiencing increased life satisfaction, enjoyment and self-confidence through learning.

By taking a class or attending a workshop, we not only learn new things, but we also meet new people, share ideas, develop our thinking skills and improve our mem-



POSTMEDIA FILE PHOTO

ories.

There are two types of lifelong learning (also called continuing education) opportunities for seniors: you can join younger students in regular credit or non-credit courses, or else mingle with other retirees in non-credit, mostly daytime, senior-specific programs.

We are fortunate in Niagara to have continuing education

classes also offered through District School Board of Niagara, Niagara Catholic District School Board, Niagara College and Brock University. There also may be online distance learning options available. You can check online for a wide variety of program offerings and also obtain a program guide where appli-

cable.

Do not forget your neighbourhood regional libraries. Across Niagara, main sites and branches offer lifelong learning featuring a wide variety of programming for adults including individuals aged 55-plus. Libraries are community hubs offering educational opportunities for all ages.

If you drop in or go online you will find libraries possibly offering speakers series, computer classes, adult book clubs, movie nights, bridge classes, tech knowledge for gadgets such as an e-reader and many others. In many cases you can subscribe to a library newsletter to monitor new program offerings and pick up flyers promoting upcoming workshops in your community.

Another community opportunity is a membership in Lifelong Learning Niagara.

This is a third age learning organization providing learning programs and experiences for adults 50-plus living in the region. The goal is to establish and present stimulating and enlightening educational programs and events that appeal to a broad range of interests

within our community. Seniors from the various municipalities are encouraged to meet and connect with each other.

A lecture series is being offered this fall plus special events for members. Specific information can be sourced at lifelonglearningniagara.com.

Volunteering also can be a rewarding educational experience. You can contribute your skills in sharing expertise of knowledge or a passion through teaching within your community or abroad. Community organizations are generally looking for volunteers who are willing to commit an amount of time and when you participate. Volunteering is an experience that offers personal rewards with new learning, meeting new people, sharing your skills while building stronger communities.

September signals a change of season as well as back to school — not just for the young but all ages. Niagara is rich in educational opportunities for you to select and enjoy a wide variety of lifelong learning experiences.

— Judy Reid is a retired educator

I've been thinking about my children growing up

REV. THOMAS P. ARTH
 First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Well it's back-to-school time and I'm almost home from my emoji nester.

I have four children and with the start of the school year only one of them will still be at home. I guess I'm showing my age a little. One daughter is finished with school and is moving away for work. Another daughter has one year of university left to complete and is away. My oldest son has left home to go to college this year. All we have left at home is our youngest son who starts high

school this year.

And me, I'll be turning 50 next month. I don't really feel up to kids having grown up since I can't even remember. I guess I can't do it any longer.

I have some young nephews and a niece who bring back some of the memories of what it was like to have really little ones running around. But I love seeing the adults and nearly adults my children have become.

I'm really proud of what my children have become and are becoming. But, pride being one of the seven deadly sins, I'll say instead that I'm thank-

ful for what they have become and am becoming.

I'm thankful for the education they're receiving, and that they show some interest in learning. Although it pains me to hear my young ones say "science is stupid" because I love science and am fascinated to learn how things work. It's neat being able to have grown up conversations with them as they now have grown up thoughts and not just childhood intrigues.

I'm also thankful for the relationships and friendships my kids have developed. A couple of them take after me

and are somewhat shy, and that's okay. The other two don't seem to have any trouble making friends and they have some really good ones. I'm thankful to have them come over and hang out at our place or for my kids to go and visit them. My children have made good choices about who they spend their time with.

I'm also thankful that my children are people whose faith is important to them and who are willing to be involved in the life of the church. One sang in the choir, two helped by teaching Sunday school, and one is only too happy to

play his guitar when asked. They always come to worship when they're at home and are willing to lend a hand when they're not.

There's no guarantee the church will always be a part of their lives — I pray that it will be, but it's not up to me. I can only try to be an example of what a life of faith can be and hope the Spirit of God moves them and inspires them to do likewise.

A life of faith does not mean I expect them to become preachers like I am. Whatever they become, whether a historian, a social worker, a cabinet

maker, or a rock star, faith like God can be a part of their lives if they let it be.

I also hope and pray whenever their lives take them, they might find a church community that accepts them. Being a Christian in isolation can be hard. Being part of a Christian community gives us support and lets us show love and care to others. It's a group among whom and with whom we can do ministry. That's really my hope for everyone, that they would come into a relationship of faith with God and live into a life of following Jesus with a full faith community.

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Relying more on drinks than ever before

BARS from page 2

Cities such as Toronto, Hamilton, London, Oshawa and Guelph, all had fewer than one drinking place for every 10,000 people.

The same map also showed that Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador were the provinces most heavily populated by bars and taverns on a per capita basis.

According to Statistics Canada, the cities with the most bars per population are Sherbrooke (3.2), St. John's (3.1), Trois-Rivières (2.8), Saguenay (2.8), Saint John (2.6), Moncton (2.4) and Montreal (2.3).

Adrian Nitopoulos — of the family-owned St. Catharines hoteliers whose portfolio includes hotel establishments such as Wrigley's Field and JJ Kappa — also sees visitors behind those pint glasses.

While older students grabbing a glass are a factor, he said tourists is a key source pushing up licensed establishment numbers.

"In a tourist destination like in Niagara Falls, it really hauls up for those four months," Nitopoulos said of summer months. "You have more than 10 million visitors in Niagara Falls alone, so that would be inflating the [bar numbers]."

Nitopoulos said he's actually seen an overall reduction in the prevalence of local bars since 2000 — with Port Dalhousie waterloo holes part of that tide.

Mishka Balsom, CEO of Greater Niagara Tourism & Convention, also pointed to the routine influx of visitors to the area seeking a glass or two at Clifton Hill and tourist-friendly bars for the local watering hole figure.

"The No. 1 is tourism, even more than colleges and universities," she said.

In its har score, Niagara beats other college-dominated cities such as Kitchener-Cambridge (0.86), Hamilton (0.91) and Kingston (1.18).

*If you have over 12 million visitors

that are coming to a certain region, they are going to ... enjoy a nice glass of wine and a good time out."

Balsom said a draw back to the study is that it doesn't measure the size of establishments.

"How many customers does each one of those places hold?" she said. "If you have that data as part of it, I think you would have a much more thorough understanding of the situation."

As an example, Balsom mentioned an area she recently visited with a plethora of restaurants and establishments. "But they were 10, 12 or 15 tables, on average."

"If I were to have compared that (to the population), it would look like a high number of establishments."

Niagara also has a big sector of private ownership in the hospitality sector, she said.

"Maybe some of those establishments are more on the smaller- to mid-sized bars, as opposed to one that holds 1,000 [people] at a time."

The Statistics Canada map of bars and taverns also squares with some previous studies of Canadian drinking habits.

In July 2010, for instance, a study published in the *Journal of Mental Health* by Public Health revealed that Martinique residents tended to drink more daily and binge more often than other Canadians. Drinkers in Quebec turn to wine more often than those in any other province.

According to the data table on which Statistics Canada's bar map is based, Canada has an average of 1.4 drinking establishments for every 10,000 people.

— with files from Andrew Duffy, Postmedia Network



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LOCAL NEWS

Students excel with 20/20 vision

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Having good vision can impact a child's life more than one may think.

Welland optometrist Richard Saari is part of the Eye See Eye Learn program, which was introduced to Niagara about four years ago. A number of Niagara optometrists participate in the program promoting eye health for school aged children.

Children are covered by OHIP for free eye exams from the day they are born until age 20. Saari said it is important for parents to know that children are provided free glasses. From now until June 30, 2017, children born in 2012 who visit an optometrist who is part of the program can participate.

"The goal of the program is to encourage parents of kindergarten kids to make sure their kids have had their eyes checked before they go into school," Saari says.

"There are huge benefits of this because 80 per cent of the

learning they are going to do are going to be through their eyes. And honestly we don't know what they are."

When the program was first introduced to Niagara, Saari says, the turnout of patients wasn't very good — about one per cent participation. Provincetown only about 20 per cent of children have their eyes checked before they begin school. Although the percentage has increased to 17 per cent, Saari is on a mission to bring awareness to the program.

"We are heading in the right direction, so the momentum definitely has to continue."

Saari says one in four children will have vision problems, which is why it's so important to aware of children's vision.

Saari visits classes at various schools in Niagara and sees the impact vision has on students' first hand. He says by just visiting he can see there are children with crossed eyes, or their colour vision isn't good, or they can't see depth very well. By addressing these issues children



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK
Optometrist Richard Saari adjusts a phoropter to check someone's vision at his Welland office in Welland. Dr. Saari is a participant in the Eye See Eye Learn program.

are able to learn easier by seeing the chalkboard, and Saari says he's also seen students' confidence increase.

Saari says one girl in particular he worked with was nearsighted and had to hold everything about 10 centimetres

from her face to see. Saari says her parents were very active in pushing her to do well in school, so she figured out how to overcome her impairment.

"Once she got glasses everything changed. All of a sudden she could see far away, her

attitude changed, she became much more positive, very outgoing — lots of positive changes."

Some children might not enjoy reading, but the reason could be their vision and not their lack of interest in books.

Saari says he treated one

boy who had binocular vision — words would move or blur when he read, which made him dislike reading. The boy thought his vision was normal, like everyone else, so he ignored it.

"He hated doing anything up close, he hated reading. He liked spending so much time outside, he was really good at soccer and that sort of thing. But when it came to his academic reading ... So giving him glasses, doing a little bit of therapy with him made a huge difference and he could now excel," Saari says.

"You don't wait until kids are telling you they can't see or waiting until they are at school. Be proactive and that is where this program really comes in."

For information about the program to get a child checked, or for a doctor to speak at a local school, visit www.optom.on.ca/OAO/ESEL/aboutESEL.aspx. Parents and others can also contact the Eye See Eye Learn program by e-mailing esel@optom.on.ca or saari@saari.ca.

MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

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LOCALNEWS

Special touch added to Welland's annual Fox run

Laura Barton
Postmedia Network

Welland's 36th annual Terry Fox Run is hitting just a bit closer to home this year.

For organizer Phil Busby, it's because of the loss of his father to cancer in May.

For Welland as a whole, it's because of a tribute to Dalton Fox, a teen who died earlier this year after his battle with bone cancer.

Mike Strange, a former Olympic boxer and a former Niagara Falls city councillor, founder of the Fox Run and someone who has run across Canada himself, will be helping out.

"(Strange) is somebody that I had on my radar for a long time and through him we're actually going to be doing a special tribute to Dalton."

Busby couldn't say exactly what the tribute is because Strange is handling it.

Terry Fox lost his battle with bone cancer back in 1981.

His friend Marathon of Hope, which was intended to be a cross-Canada venture, was instead focused on drawing attention to cancer research and the Terry Fox Foundation continues to raise money to find a cure.

"This all happened well before my time," said Busby. "But I've always — as a kid up until this date — been

inspired by what he actually did and what he was trying to accomplish for others."

Busby said he's a runner himself, so he knows the kind of mental and physical discipline that goes into preparing for and running a race. However, he said he can't imagine what it must have been like

for Fox.

Welland's event isn't a cross-Canada venture, of course, but Busby said it's up to a 10-kilometre trek.

"It's run, walk, wheel, bike — whatever anybody wants to do is totally acceptable."

See FOX RUN on page LI

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Free food, beverages important additions

FOX run from page 7

The route is along the Merritt Island path. It goes five kilometres out and then back. The distance travelled is up to the participant.

And there will be more to do than run the course.

Bushy said there will be free food, beverages and live entertainment.

There's going to be a DJ and live music from local musician Jeff Beadle, and Welland's own "Got Magic?" magician Shaun Ferguson will be back for the kids.

"We're going to have a fitness

instructor to warm everybody up pre-run," Bushy said, noting there will also be a massage therapist on site to treat people before and after the run, too.

He said he's always on the lookout of new ways to draw people to the event.

Two years ago, when he was just a volunteer, he said the event raised about \$6,000. Last year, it doubled that.

While his estimate doesn't double that amount, he expects an increase.

"I'd say we're easily aiming for,

I want to say, \$16,000," he said. "All that goes directly to the Terry Fox Foundation and basically gets distributed into a number of things."

The foundation gives 84 cents per dollar received to research and advancements and has raised about \$700 million to date.

Bushy said people can make cash or cheque donations that day of the event or donate at www.terryfox.ca/terryfoxrun/welland.

barton@postmedia.com



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Port Colborne Mayor John Maloney, volunteers Autumn Chevette, Rose Bye and Terry Fox Run organizer Nancy Salvage hold up the flag before it was raised on Aug. 26 before it was raised at city hall.

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Cukier not coming to Brock after all

**DON FRASER
and BOB TYMCZYZN**
Postmedia Network

no further details.

Forbes said Cukier, who graduated from Brock in 1979, had been at Ryerson for 30 years.

She was set to begin her Brock role last Thursday, replacing previous president Jack Lightstone, who at age 65 retired at the end of June.

Gary Connerford, vice-chair of the board of trustees, said Brock was very fortunate to have Lightstone for 10 years, which he described as an unusually long term in some respects at Canadian universities.

Connerford said the board of trustees is in the process of consulting with the university's faculty, with faculty and with various school stakeholders.

"It's very important that we



Cukier

have good dialogue going forward. Because we have to ensure that we have the correct interim solution and then a longer-term view of replacement," he said.

"These things to do take several months. We're going to identify an appropriate candidate. But we also have to make sure what kind of tenure is required to ensure the right candidate," said Connerford.

"Students are going to come to campus (this) week and they're going to see a beautiful campus and a great city, they're going to meet professors and go to class. We've got a great institution for these students from across Canada and the world. We're ready for these students and we're in great shape."

Connerford said the board of trustees is in the process of consulting with the university's faculty, with faculty and with various school stakeholders.

"It's very important that we

While he admitted the parting of ways is unfortunate, Connerford said at the end of the day, "it was a very respectful mutual decision, but it was made and we'll move forward."

"She's a terrific academic and leading researcher, we wish her the best."

Brock's interim acting president, Rose Krasnor, remains in place as students begin their academic year this week.

Brock's faculty association president said the mutual decision not to go forward with Cukier's appointment was concerning.

"We were just as surprised as anybody," said Linda Rose-Krasnor, president of the Brock University Faculty Association.

"We believe this is the big question and everyone is aware of the seriousness of it."

Rose-Krasnor added the faculty is also "very concerned that the acting president (should)

"We are deeply disappointed ... and we're pretty confused because there's no information about why or how (this happened) or what's going to prevent this from happening again, perhaps."

"And we're concerned as there's certainly uncertainty about what is going to be happening next," said Rose-Krasnor. She said the situation is exacerbated because "almost all of the senior administrators are new, interim and/or coming from outside Brock."

"Where do we go from here is the big question and everyone is aware of the seriousness of it."

Rose-Krasnor added the faculty is also "very concerned that the acting president (should)

be an academic ... with academic credentials and experience, as opposed to someone with administrative, financial or some other kind of background."

Connerford could not estimate how long it will take to find a new president.

"We believe good process will take time and we'll ensure that we have that going forward," he said.

"And we'll make sure that we do everything possible to secure a candidate and president that is going to do it St. Catharines, the Niagara Peninsula and Brock proud."

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YMCA children getting provincial boost

MARYVAN FIRTH
Postmedia Network

Two new programs to encourage children to get active are being rolled out at Niagara's YMCA.

Kid Fit: Yoga and Kid Fit: Cardio will be added to the programming roster in 2017 thanks to \$79,607 in provincial funding announced last Monday in St. Catharines.

Delivered through the

Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund, the money is intended to help Niagara children get active and create healthy habits they will carry through to adulthood. YMCA of Niagara CEO Janet St. Amand said.

The funding will cover the cost of developing the program curriculums, training 87 staff members in fundamental movement skills and physical literacy assessments, and run-

ning the programs for one year. Geared toward ages three to 12, the programs will help 800 children across Niagara develop their physical literacy skills.

Teaching children to run, catch, hop, throw, balance and be agile is critical in order to transition them from healthy active children to healthy active adults, St. Amand said.

Those skills, she added, are

"vital" in a day when children are "less active than ever before and childhood obesity rates continue to rise."

The eight-week programs will first be piloted in early 2017 at St. Catharines, Grimsby and Niagara Falls YMCAs before being expanded to all six Niagara locations. A program co-ordinator has been hired to develop the curriculum, which will be done

in conjunction with Brock University and Canadian Sport for Life.

St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley, who made last Monday's announcement, said there's growing competition for the attention of children, particularly with today's technology.

Too much screen time can be unhealthy, he said, while lauding community efforts to try and

encourage children to engage in healthy activities.

Bradley called the two new programs yet another opportunity "to see kids active with something other than their fingers and thumbs."

The provincial government, through the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund, is supporting 129 organizations in 2016 with a total \$7.2 million.

Niagara Stalls Official
Class Environmental Assessment
Notice of Public Information Centre



The City of Port Colborne is undertaking the detailed design for the replacement of the Nickel Area storm sewer system. This project will involve the removal of the existing pipe and the location of the storm sewer outlet, that will form the outfall for the system.

This project is being delivered under Schedule B of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) Order 2000, as amended in 2003, 2011 & 2013, which includes the following environmental assessment information document:

Public Information Centre

This project uses a standard A full range of information has been prepared and is available at the Public Information Centre.

A copy of the Project Description and the Environmental Assessment Report (EAP) will be available at the Public Information Centre.

How To Get Involved: The City of Port Colborne invites citizens with an interest in the study to provide input, which may be submitted in writing or orally at the Public Information Centre.

The City of Port Colborne will review all comments received and incorporate them into the environmental assessment report by September 26, 2016. Subject to the identification of a preferred storm outlet location and necessary approvals, the City of Port Colborne will proceed with the design and construction of this project.

For further information about this project, and/or to submit comments, please contact:

CRAIG MCNAUL
Manager of Projects & Design
Engineering Services
City of Port Colborne
100 Water Street
Port Colborne, ON L1K 3C1
905-835-2600 ext. 223
Email: mcnaul@portcolborne.ca

Brian Hartman, C.E.T.
Director of Engineering & Operations
City of Port Colborne

This Notice issued September 7, 2016

Under the Freedom of Information Act and the Environmental Assessment Act, information contained in this document may be released under access to information requests as needed, address telephone number 905-835-2600 ext. 223. Requests for information must be submitted in writing. Requests for information may be refused, if requested, to any person

who has a reasonable expectation that the information will be used for commercial purposes.

The City of Port Colborne reserves the right to refuse to release any information that it believes would

be contrary to the public interest as defined in the Freedom of Information Act.

Information may be withheld under section 32(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act.

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